Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04410 151523Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 /110 W

-----152106Z 040881 /67

R 151432Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG EG GW
SUBJ: MOBIL AND WEST GERMAN FIRM NEXT TO GET EXPLORATION/
PRODUCTION RIGHTS IN SINAI

1. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS
ARE ABOUT TO CONCLUDE BETWEEN EGPC AND MOBIL FOR EXPLORATION/
PRODUCTION RIGHTS IN FORMER MOBIL AREA IN SINAI ENCOMPASSING
AREAS AROUND SUDR/MATARMA AND ASL FIELDS. ALTHOUGH MOBIL
AREA IS ALMOST COMPLETE SOUTH OF LINE J AND WEST OF
LINE M, SMALL PORTION DOES EXTEND INTO SOUTHERN PART OF MAIN
SINAI BUFFER ZONE. EGPC INTENDS TO INCLUDE STANDARD FORCE
MAJEURE CLAUSE IN AGREEMENT UNTIL ACCESS TO WHOLE AREA
CAN BE WORKED OUT. MOBIL HAS NOT SOUGHT ANY ASSISTANCE
FROM US IN NEGOTIATIONOF THIS AGREEMENT. MAP OF
PROPOSED AREA BEING POUCHED.

2. MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM SOURCES HAVE ALSO INFORMED US THAT WEST GERMAN FIRM WINTERSHALL WILL GET SIXTH ONSHORE EXPLOARATION BLOCK IN NORTHERN SINAI AREA. ACCORDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EGPC MAP WINTERSHALL AREA LIES BOTH EAST AND WEST OF SUEZ CANAL, WITH LARGER PORTION WEST AND SOUTH OF GREAT BITTER LAKE. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO OVERLAP WITH UN SUPERVISED BUFFER ZONE, HENCE WINTERSHALL WILL NOT SHARE GULF AND CONOCO'S POTENTIAL ADMISSION PROBLEMS. BOTH CONOCO AND GULF REPS HAVE TOLD US THAT GEOLOGICALLY THE AREA IS NOT AS INTERESTING AS THEIR AREAS FURTHER

NORTH HENCE THEY DID NOT BID ON IT. WINTERSHALL WE UNDERSTAND IS PART OWNER OF DEMINEX, WHICH HAS MAJOR SHARE OF GULF OF SUEZ ACREAGE.

MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ENRG, EG, GE, US, MOBIL, WINTERSHALL

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